

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on March 8, 2005.

No claims are amended, cancelled, or added. Claims 1-15 remain pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muramatsu (U.S. Patent No. 5,531,289) in view of Tone (U.S. Patent No. 4,328,879). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

The rejection states that Muramatsu discloses “a drive pulley (62) rotatably mounted to a rigid bracket via a bearing,” and that Tone teaches a motorcycle transmission output gear “with a rubber drive coupler (28) located between and coupled to the transmission output gear (see Fig. 2) and teeth (56) of a drive pulley.” The rejection states that it would have been obvious to provide the drive sprocket of Muramatsu with the resilient rubber coupler of Tone.

Muramatsu appears to show an internal combustion engine 51 including a crankcase mounted change speed transmission. An output shaft 59 is journaled in a side bearing 61 of the internal combustion engine (power unit) 51 which has a sprocket 62 affixed to its exposed end (col. 4, lines 39-45). The sprocket 62 of Muramatsu, however, is not rotatably mounted to a rigid bracket, wherein the rigid bracket is attached to a frame. As Muramatsu describes, the sprocket is instead attached to an output shaft 59 of the engine 51.

Tone appears to show a shock absorbing motion compensator sprocket 12. The sprocket 12 of Tone appears to “form a journaled fit with the splines 44 formed on the motorcycle crankshaft 42 (col. 4, lines 31-33). The sprocket 12 of Tone is not rotatably mounted to a rigid bracket, wherein the rigid bracket is attached to a frame. Similar to Muramatsu, the sprocket 12 is attached to a crankshaft 42 of an engine.

In contrast, independent claim 1 includes a drive pulley rotatably mounted to a rigid bracket, wherein the rigid bracket is attached to a frame. Further in contrast, independent claim 14 includes a drive pulley rotatably mounted to a bracket via a bearing, wherein the bracket is adapted to be attached to a frame of a motorcycle. Mounting drive pulleys directly on an engine

shaft as shown in both Muramatsu and Tone is described as problematic in the present specification on page 1, paragraph 0003.

Because the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not show every element of Applicant's independent claims, a 35 USC § 103(a) rejection is not supported by the references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to Applicant's independent claims 1 and 14. Additionally, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to the remaining claims that depend therefrom as depending on allowable base claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9-13 were allowed. Applicant acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowance.

Claims 8 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability, however, pursuant to arguments presented above, claims 8 and 15 were not rewritten in independent form at this time.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6944 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.


Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 8 day of June, 2005.

KACIA LEE

Name

Kacia Lee

Signature